



SKUTTLEBUTT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AND AUXILIARY



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DECEMBER 2019

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Detachment WEB Site: www.macombmarines.com



Marines & Auxiliary Members:

DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE

The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday December 5 at 7:00 pm (1900)

Join us earlier than usual for the annual Christmas party at the American Legion, Post 351, 46146 Cass Avenue located in Utica. The telephone number to the Post is (586) 731-9833.

NOVEMBER 50/50 ATTENDANCE DRAWING

New Member Kevin Hanley won the 50/50 drawing. Benny Gaglio would have won the attendance drawing had he been present. Next drawing starts at \$8.75.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTING IN



At the November meeting, Marine Kevin Hanley was sworn in as a member of our Detachment.

Kevin was in the Corps 1974-1976, and his MOS was 0351 (anti-tank assault) and was trained on the 106 recoilless rifle. A member of 3rd battalion 9th Marines, he was stationed at Camp Schwab Okinawa.





Welcome Aboard Marine Kevin Hanley!

DETACHMENT& AUXILIARY BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER

John H. Blackburn	James Borlase
Richard D. Bourgeault	Fred Bullis
William Dilauro	Richard J. Francis
Raymond W. Mrosewske	Scott R. Neff
Christine A. Tonegatto-Salo	

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

Marines,

First off, I would like to thank Buck Clement, Christine and anyone else who helped for their efforts in Collecting Toys for the Toys for Tots fund raiser. If you have collected Toys and don't know what to do with them, give me a call and I can help you get the toys to proper place for distribution. Don't forget to bring a toy to the Christmas Party.

Secondly, we impressed the two past National Commandants to the Marine Corp League with our attendance at our installation of Officers. They referred to it as a sea of red. Remember the uniform for the league is the MCL cover, red shirt if you have one, name tag. Remember we are a family, a brotherhood. Ohrah!!!

I spent the morning of November 10th at the VA hospital with the Young Marines thanking the Vets for their service and passing out flags and canteen books. From there, I went to our Birthday party and what a party that was! I hope everybody had a good time.

In October, the MCL Dept. of Michigan had their Fall Staff meeting. Fund raising and membership were the big topics. Both were down. We need to be more aggressive in our fund raising and recruiting new members

Put January 24th & 25th on your calendar. The MCL Dept. of Michigan is having their mid-Winter rally. It's always good to attend these meetings to find out how other Detachments fund raise, recruit and help their members.

Military Order of the Devil Dogs will be going to the VA Hospital on March 15th. So, mark your calendar. If anyone wants to join the Devil Dogs see me after the regular meeting.

I install Officers for the Stanley L. Moore Detachment November 6th and they are having a pancake breakfast on Dec. 8th 8:00 to 10:00 A.M. in Royal Oak, Mi at the V.F.W. Post. More info to follow.

I want to wish everyone a Very Happy Thanksgiving and many Merry Christmas Blessings in the New Year!

Keep up the good Work! Semper Fi

*Norm Pfaff
Commandant*

AUXILIARY NEWS

After a lot of hard work and planning, the USMC 244th Birthday Party is a fond memory. Our birthday celebration was truly a huge success since it was the best attended gathering we've ever had with over 130 guests. Our thanks to American House for providing a scrumptious catered dinner for the event. Everyone will agree they did an outstanding job. American House has been such a generous supporter over the years, we are very grateful for what they do



for us. We also want to thank those members from our own Detachment and Auxiliary for adding to our birthday feast by bringing pizza, sliders, meatballs, SOS, desserts and more.

Looking for that perfect piece of chicken, yum!

Another integral part of our party is the Charity



Basket Raffle. This continues to be the biggest fund raiser for the Auxiliary and this year was no exception. The raffle items were super-duper, no doubt. Thank you to all the members and supporters who donated these great prizes. We also want to thank everyone who helped

sell tickets and everyone who bought tickets. The Birthday Party celebration - from retiring the colors, reading the original order establishing the Birthday Party, to the Commandant's Birthday message and the cake

Calling out the winning raffle tickets

cutting ceremony, is a tradition no other military service can boast. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. We can only do this with the support and contributions from all of you in the Detachment and the Auxiliary. Keep in mind that we do this not only for ourselves, but also to keep this tradition alive for future generations of Marines. Semper Fidelis.



Our next meeting is the December Christmas party. Our meeting will start earlier at 7:00 pm. The Detachment is collecting Toys for Tots, so bring a new, unwrapped toy to the meeting. The Detachment is providing dinner. The Auxiliary is providing desserts and appetizers for the buffet. Some set-up is needed, so if you get there by 6:30 to help, that would be great. If you can plan to stay a little later after the party to help with clean-up, that would be great, too.

The Auxiliary meeting is always a short one in December because of the party. However, what we do at our meeting is the culmination of our year of fundraising effort. This is the time of year we make our donations to charity. If you, as an Auxiliary member have a suggestion, this is the time to do it. We donate to Marine charities and veteran charities to help the homeless and the needy, veteran and military families. Our Auxiliary may be few in number compared to the number of those who need our help, but when all of us work together, we make a huge impact. This is the reason we exist and why we do what we do. It's something we all look forward to at end of the year and it's something we, the Macomb County Unit, can be proud of.

See you at our next meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Remember, we're always looking for new members, so bring a friend.



Correction to the caption from last month's newsletter Sharon Renaud, Wendy Succarde, Joan Pfaff, **Loretta Balderson**, Irene Spooner

Semper Fidelis,
Irene Spooner
Secretary/Treasurer
Macomb County Unit, MCLA

ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER

Current membership stands at 133 as of 9-30-2019
With 102 life members, and 31 annual members

Dues renewals.

The following members are delinquent.

Steven J. August
John H. Blackburn
Gordon Lowrie
James Rhodes
Bryan Daffran

David J. Auwen
David M. Burin
Jerome N. Nadolski
Raymond J. Tucci
Malcolm E. Whitehouse

Mail \$32.00 to
MCL Detachment 154

Adjutant/Paymaster
14656 Eastport Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Hosted by MODD Pound #138, The Red Knights,
assisted by Cascades Detachment #149
Details on the Department website.
<http://www.michiganmarines.org/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 5	1900 General Membership meeting Detachment/Auxiliary Christmas Party
Jan 2 2020	1930 General Membership meeting
Jan 24-25	Department of Michigan MCL Mid-Winter Rally Jackson, MI
Feb 6	1930 General Membership meeting
Feb 27-29	MCL National Winter Meeting Norfolk, VA
March 5	1930 General Membership Meeting
April 2	1930 General Membership Meeting
May 7	1930 General Membership Meeting
June 4	1930 General Membership Meeting
July 2	1930 General Membership Meeting
August 6	1930 General Membership Meeting 1 st round of nominations
August 4-10	MCL National Convention Daytona Beach, FL
August tbd	Department of Michigan MCL Annual convention. Flint, MI
Sept. 3	1930 General Membership Meeting Election of Officers
Oct. 1	1900 General Membership Meeting Installation of officers
Nov 5	1930 General Membership Meeting
Nov 10	1500-2000 Marine Corps 245th Birthday Party
Dec 3	1900 General Membership Meeting Detachment Christmas Celebration

Department of Michigan Mid-Winter Rally

January 24 & 25, 2020
Holiday Inn Jackson NW
2696 Bob McClain Drive
Jackson, MI 49202
(517) 789-9600

GUESS WHO?



Here's a hint, this Marine was the Detachment Member of the Year for 2014.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

JAPANESE SURRENDER REVISITED

Did you ever wonder why the United States chose a battleship as the location for Japan's surrender in World War 2, even though they were in Tokyo Bay?

Nothing says "you're defeated" more than having to sign the surrender documents on the enemy's battleship in the home waters of your capital city.

Why the USS Missouri?

President Truman insisted on the USS Missouri because Missouri was his home state. The Navy had planned on using the USS South Dakota.

Symbolism of the ships location

The ship was anchored at the precise latitude/longitude recorded in Commodore Perry's log during his 1845 visit, symbolizing the purpose of both visits to open Japan to the west. Perry's original flag was also present, having been flown all the way from the Naval Academy for the ceremony.

Side Boys (?)

For those not familiar with this, Side Boys are an honor guard of sailors that are placed at the top of the ladder way when dignitaries come aboard. For the surrender ceremony, sailors over six feet tall were used, a further intimidation of the short statured Japanese.

Lastly, after the signing ceremony, as the Japanese delegation were leaving the Missouri, an armada of over 400 planes flew over Tokyo Bay, reminding the Japanese should they have second thoughts on their surrender.

(Source: Merle Pratt, USN ret.)

Greg Pawlik
Detachment Historian

244TH USMC BIRTHDAY



Young Marines Color Guard at the birthday celebration.



Marine Harry Grover, age 95 showing his glee at winning the title, Oldest Marine present. Ethan Bartley, 29, was the Youngest Marine in attendance.



Harry Grover was on board the U.S.S. Missouri at the signing of the "Instrument of Surrender" on behalf of the Allied Powers, Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945, officially ending WWII. Pictured in the front row, find Harry far left.



Source: Smithsonian, Carl Mydans, photographer

Marine Ethan Bartley graduated from Mt. Clemens High School in 2008, joined the Marine Corps and went off to boot camp in October 2008. Then he went on to MCT (Marine Combat Training) in North Carolina and next to 29 Palms California for COMMS school.

His first unit was in Camp Pendleton 2nd Battalion 1st Marines on Camp Horno. As soon as he arrived there he started a Work up to deploy to Afghanistan the following year in 2010. In 2011 he returned to Camp Pendleton and then immediately started another Work up, this time for the 31ST MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit) where the Marines provided training for multiple countries within the Pacific.

Ethan is now back and forth between active duty Marine Corps and Reserves, working with robotics to assist with EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) units and Combat engineers.



Alan Opra attending the birthday festivities with Boss.



Good Boy Boss!

MACOMB COUNTY DETACHMENT
 Department of Michigan
 Marine Corps League
 INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS
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 Sterling Heights, MI 48313-5325

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Change of Address: Send to the Detachment Adjutant/Paymaster at:

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 Or email to Macomb.marines@gmail.com

New Address (please print):

Name _____

Street _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____